

ABSTRACT

A system and method for distribution of cryptographic keys to data encryption and decryption devices used to protect digital video/multimedia data transmitted over a display link between a digital video/multimedia source and a display device are provided. The digital data, which may be in Digital Visual Interface (DVI) format, from a digital video/multimedia source, such as, for example, a Digital Versatile Disk (DVD) player, a set-top box, or a computer, is encrypted prior to transmission on the display link. Use of key management and storage that are external to the data encryption or decryption devices enables downloading of new keys from external key sources. Encrypted data encryption and decryption keys may be included in a cable signal received by the set-top box. The data encryption and decryption keys from an internal or external key source may be encoded in the DVD player, set-top box, or computer prior to being sent over a control bus to a display link receiver or a display device.